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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/082,709	02/25/2002	Hiroyuki Minaguchi	PW 0284610 3KG032526USAA	5317
27496	7590	03/01/2004	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP 725 S. FIGUEROA STREET SUITE 2800 LOS ANGELES, CA 90017			EDWARDS, ANTHONY Q	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2835	

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/082,709

Applicant(s)

MINAGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony Q. Edwards

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-12, 14, 16-19, 21-24, 26 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 9, 13, 15, 20, 25 and 27 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☒ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>two (2) attached</u> . | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>marked-up copy of Fig. 8.</u>          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 21-23, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,675,865 to Yoshida, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,467,527 to Kubota et al. Referring to claims 1, 5 and 14, Yoshida discloses a housing (60) used for an electronic apparatus (50), which inherently houses a functional part (e.g., a display) comprising: an outer or support wall (20) formed by injecting a metal material into a molding space (12) in a metal die (11). See Fig. 4 and the corresponding specification. Yoshida also discloses the outer wall (20) including first end portion situated on an upstream end along a flowing direction of the metal material, a second end portion situated on a downstream end of the flowing direction of the metal material, and an injection portion formed on the first end portion where at least one gate of the metal die is inherently situated, forming a space (not numbered) between the first end portion and the injection portion (see Fig. 5 and 8, and the corresponding specification).

Yoshida does not specifically disclose injecting the metal material from a plurality of gates into the molding space (12). Kubota et al. disclose a pressure die-casting process, wherein a plurality of gates is provided for molten metal (see col. 9, lines 15-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the

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injection molding device of Yoshida with an injection system having a plurality of gates as taught by Kubota et al., to limit the amount of molten metal flow into the mold cavity.

Referring to claim 10, Yoshida in view of Kubota et al. disclose the housing as claimed, including the support wall being inherently configured to support a functional part (e.g., a display), wherein the support wall includes a pair of projecting portions (not numbered) projecting from the support wall at intervals (see the marked-up copy of Fig. 8).

Referring to claims 6, 12 and 16, Yoshida in view of Kubota et al. inherently disclose a functional part or display unit (see Fig. 1 and the corresponding specification) as claimed, having a display panel (not shown) situated between the first end portion and the second end portion of the support wall.

Referring to claim 21, Yoshida in view of Kubota et al. disclose the housing as claimed, including a display panel (not shown, but inherent) situated between the first end portion and the second end portion of the support wall, and a computer main body having a keyboard, the main body being in electric communication with the display panel. See Fig. 1 and “Description of Related Art” section.

Referring to claims 2, 7, 17 and 22, Yoshida in view of Kubota et al. disclose the housing having a display unit and/or panel as claimed, wherein the injection portion includes first and second edge portions that extend from the first end portion towards the second end portion and facing each other, and a third edge portion bridged between a distal end of the first edge portion and a distal end of the second edge portion. See the marked-up copy of Fig. 8.

Referring to claims 3, 8, 18 and 23, Yoshida in view of Kubota et al. disclose the housing having a display unit and/or panel as claimed, wherein the metal material is a magnesium alloy

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and is injected in a half-molten state into the molding space of the metal die. See Fig. 4 and col. 4, lines 29-38.

Referring to claim 4, Yoshida in view of Kubota et al. disclose the housing as claimed, wherein said plurality of gates of the metal die are arranged at intervals along the first edge portion to the third edge portion. See Fig. 8 of Yoshida and col. 9, lines 15-25 of Kubota et al.

Referring to claim 11, Yoshida in view of Kubota et al. disclose the housing as claimed, including the first end portion being situated on an upstream end along a flowing direction of the metal material, a second end portion situated on a downstream end of the flowing direction of the metal material. See Fig. 5 and 8, and the corresponding specification.

Referring to claims 26 and 28, the recited method steps are inherently necessitated by the apparatus structure as disclosed by Yoshida in view of Kubota et al. (see col. 6, lines 7-54).

Claims 19 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida in view of Kubota et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6, 072,274 to Jondrow. Yoshida, as modified, discloses the invention as claimed, except for the display being a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel. Jondrow discloses a molded LCD panel (30) for use in an electronic apparatus, such as a PC. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the display unit of the portable computer of Yoshida in view of Kubota et al. with an LCD panel as taught by Jondrow, to reduce the overall weight of the computer system.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 9, 13, 15, 20, 25 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the apparatus and corresponding method claim(s) recite a housing formed by injection molding, wherein an injection portion of a support wall is covered by a synthetic-resin made cover, and the cover is fixed to the support wall by a plurality of locations along a first edge portion to a third edge portion of the injection portion. These features, in combination with the rest of the elements or steps, are not taught or suggested by the art references.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: U.S. Patent Application Publication Nos. US2002/0044410 to Nakano et al. and US2001/0003017 to Hosoi et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Q. Edwards whose telephone number is 571-272-2042. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext. 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

February 10, 2004

aqe

  
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